

The Star in the East

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-13

- In Acts 17 the apostle Paul addressed the Athenians who worshiped an “*unknown God*.” He took the opportunity to preach the truth.

Introduction

Newspaper Article from Indianapolis, Indiana

**** I want to put things in the right perspective**

***** A Perversion of the Gospel of Christ!**

1 2 3 4 5 **Galatians 1:6-8**

1. **Wise men came from the East - The star was West of them (vs 1)**
2. **Somehow they knew by this star the Christ was born (Vs 2).**
3. **Their inquiry troubled Herod. He asked where his birth was to be (Vs 3-6).**
 - A. **How many wise men? (V.7)**
 - B. **Where did they see Jesus? (V.11)**

The Origin of Christmas

1. **Roman Catholic Church set the date of December 25th.**
 - A. **Luke 2:8 – Shepherds keeping watch by night in fields.**
2. **3 centuries passed after the death of Christ before there was a day of special observance for His birth.**
 - A. **It was first celebrated in Rome in 354 AD**

It Is Not the Birthday of Christ

1. His birthday cannot be ascertained by New Testament or any other source.
 - **Christ is not the reason for the season; but rather, He is the reason for eternity and we are here for only a season.**
 - A. We do not know when Christ was born. There is no reference to "Christmas" in the Bible. Like Instrumental Music, it was something that was added later on.
 - B. Certainly it was not in the Winter time – Shepherds in field.
2. Even if it were His birthday, it would certainly not be a time for man to act the way they do; **once a year observance, rowdyism**, etc.
3. It is immaterial when the date of His birth was. We can read in the Bible what we are to do and observe as it relates to Christ.
 - A. **Baptism: (Death, Burial, & Resurrection)**
Romans 6:3-4
 - B. **The Lord's Supper: (Death)**
1 Corinthians 11:23-29
 - C. **Worship (Resurrection)**

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.....

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

4. **But it is still fitting to recall with gratitude the facts of Christ's birth - It was a great event.**
5. **It is not a sin to remember His birth with thanksgiving.**
Isaiah 9:6-7

What Is Beneath the Star?

1. Jesus - The visible token of God's love for us.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

A. Because of this great love, we should love Him back.

I John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

I John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

2. Jesus - offering hope for a lost world.

Ephesians 2:12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

1Thessalonians 4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

A. **A loss of hope is man's greatest loss. One can lose property, friends, etc. but when man loses hope, he has nothing more to live for (This is why there are so many suicides).**

B. **Hope gives us strong consolation.**
Hebrews 6:17-19

C. **The babe of the Nile was the hope of Israel - The babe of Bethlehem is the hope of the world.**

3. Jesus - proving to be a great demonstration of unselfishness.

Matthew 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

A. We are failures unless we serve others.

1) This is learned daily – not yearly.

James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4. Jesus - the light of the world.

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

5. Jesus - is God with Us ("Immanuel")

Matthew 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

6. Jesus - the world's greatest leader.

(We must follow His guidance.)

1 Peter 2:21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

7. Jesus – Calling for all to come and abide in Him EVERYDAY!

Matthew 11:28-30

What the Wise Men Did

1. Gave precious gifts. (Verse 11)
2. The best thing they gave was their hearts (Verse 11)
3. The same should be our offering.
 - A. Giving the very best we have to offer Him in all aspects of our life, including our hearts!

Mark 12:30 'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

- 1) To the Corinthians Paul wrote:

2 Corinthians 8:5but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

- B. No gift is so precious to Him as our love.

- 1) As a result of our love we are motivated to serve and obey Him (John 14:15; Heb 5:9).

Conclusion:

1. May we each and every day remember our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
 - A. This day should be no different than any other Sunday. We should be thankful always that we have the privilege and honor to worship Jesus every week.
 - 1) He gave His life for us! We must give ourselves to Him.
2. As we come closer to the end of this year, may each one of us keep the precious star of Jesus Christ in our hearts every day and every week, as we determine to serve Him in truth!

